



USDA-NASS

# Montana Crop & Livestock Reporter

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Montana Agricultural Statistics Service

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## HIGHLIGHTS:

2004 Crop Values  
Alfalfa Seed Production  
Wheat & Barley County Estimates  
U.S. & Canadian Cattle  
Cattle on Feed  
Red Meat Production  
Milk Production  
Potato Stocks  
Farm Labor  
Egg Production

## 2004 Crop Values

The value of Montana's 2004 **all wheat** crop rose 16 percent from 2003 to \$612.1 million. All wheat production was up 22 percent from last year, but the season average price decreased \$0.18 per bushel. The preliminary 2004 season average price for all wheat was \$3.55 per bushel compared with \$3.73 last season.

The value of Montana's **winter wheat** crop decreased 7 percent from last year to \$223.9 million, due to decreased production and prices. The preliminary season average price was down \$0.21 from last year to \$3.35 per bushel. **Spring wheat's** value of production was up 39 percent from 2003 to \$318.1 million. The season average price decreased \$0.18 per bushel to \$3.60. **Durum wheat's** season average price dropped \$0.17 from 2003 to \$3.90 per bushel. The value of the durum wheat crop was \$70.1 million, up 19 percent from 2003.

The value of Montana's **oat** crop rose 21 percent from 2003 to \$4.08 million due to an increase in production from the previous year. The season average price was unchanged at \$1.70 per bushel. Total value of production for **barley** was estimated at

\$139.6 million, up 40 percent from the previous year. The 2004 season average price, at \$2.85, was down 8 cents from 2003. **Corn for grain** value of production for 2004 was estimated at \$5.4 million dollars, down 15 percent from 2003. The average price per bushel decreased \$0.15 to \$2.50.

Montana's value of production for **flaxseed** increased by \$1.4 million to \$2.7 million dollars in 2004, due to an increase in production and price. The price per bushel jumped \$2.10 from last year to \$7.90. **Dry edible beans** value of production was estimated at \$7.5 million, up 77 percent from 2003 due to higher yields and prices. The average price jumped \$8.10 per cwt to \$26.30 per cwt.

Value of production for **dry edible peas** in Montana, at \$7.6 million more than doubled the 2003 value of \$3.6 million due to production almost tripling the previous year. The average price per cwt decreased \$2.10 to \$6.00. **Austrian winter peas** value of production for the 2004 crop jumped to \$734,000 from \$582,000 in 2003. The average price per cwt was \$10.20, down \$0.20 from last year. **Lentils** value of production jumped to \$15.7 million from \$4.2 million in 2003 due to a huge increase in production. The average price increased \$0.20 to \$15.60 per cwt.

Montana's value of production for **potatoes** was \$19.2 million, a 14 percent decrease from the previous year due to lower prices. The average price per cwt was \$5.40, \$2.20 below 2003. **Sugar beets** value of production for 2003 is estimated at \$56.2 million, up 25 percent from the previous year. The season average price rose \$2.00 per ton from 2002 to \$43.00.

The 2004 season average price for **all**

**hay** increased \$3.00 from last year to \$76.50 per ton. The value of production was up 7 percent to \$362.1 million. **Alfalfa hay's** 2004 season average price was estimated at \$78.50, up \$3.50 per ton from last year, while **other hay's** season average price increased \$2.50 to \$71.00.

## 2004 Alfalfa Seed Production

Alfalfa seed production for 2004 was estimated at 2.2 million pounds, up 7 percent from the revised 2003 production. Harvested acreage at 5,800 was down 400 acres from last year's acreage of 6,200 acres. The state average yield was estimated at 382 pounds per acre, up from the 335 pounds per acre a year ago. Irrigated yields averaged 532 pounds per acre, up from 460 pounds in 2003 and non-irrigated yields averaged 73 pounds per acre, down 17 pounds from last year.

Producers used an average of 3.8 gallons of leaf cutter bees per acre on all acres harvested for alfalfa seed in 2004, unchanged from a year ago. Leaf cutter bees were used on 33 percent of the reported irrigated acres at the rate of 4.2 gallons per acre and 11 percent of the reported non-irrigated acres. Alfalfa seed growers who utilized leaf cutter bees produced an average of 75 percent more seed per acre than those that did not use bees to pollinate their crop.

Proprietary varieties made up 54 percent of this year's production, common uncertified varieties accounted for 45 percent of the production and common certified varieties represented 1 percent.

The average price received for the 2004 crop was \$0.99 per pound, down 2 cents from last year's average price.

## ALFALFA SEED: Estimates by Agricultural Statistics Districts, 2004

District	TOTAL			IRRIGATED			NON-IRRIGATED		
	Acres	Yield	Production	Acres	Yield	Production	Acres	Yield	Production
		Pounds			Pounds			Pounds	
North Central	1,400	162	227,000	1/	1/	1/	1/	1/	1/
South Central	2,800	572	1,601,000	2,400	653	1,567,000	400	85	34,000
Southeast	400	55	22,000	0	0	0	400	55	22,000
Other Districts	1,200	303	364,000	1,500	339	508,000	1,100	75	83,000
Montana	5,800	382	2,214,000	3,900	532	2,075,000	1,900	73	139,000
1/ Combined with "other districts" to avoid disclosure of individual data.									

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## **2004 Wheat, Barley, and Oat County Estimates Now Available**

The 2004 crop year county estimates for barley, oats, all wheat, winter wheat, durum wheat and spring wheat are now available. Estimates are made for acres planted, acres harvested for grain, average yield per harvested acre and production. Estimates are made by practices for irrigated crops and non-irrigated crops. Non-irrigated wheat and barley crops are further divided into cropping practices for acres that were re-cropped or continuously cropped and non-irrigated crops harvested from previously fallowed acres. Oats county estimates are estimated by practices of irrigated and non-irrigated only. These estimates are available on our website at [www.nass.usda.gov/mt/](http://www.nass.usda.gov/mt/) or they can be requested by calling or writing our office.

## **U.S. and Canadian Cattle**

This publication is a result of a joint effort by Statistics Canada and NASS to release the number of cattle and calves by class and calf crop for both countries within one publication. This information was requested by the U.S. cattle industry to provide producers additional information about potential beef supplies. U.S. inventory numbers were previously released on January 28, 2005.

All cattle and calves in the U. S. and Canada combined totaled 110.9 million head on January 1, 2005, up 1 percent from a year ago. All cows and heifers that have calved, at 48.4 million head, was up 1 percent from a year ago.

All cattle and calves in the United States as of January 1, 2005, totaled 95.8 million head, 1 percent above the 94.9 million on January 1, 2004 and slightly below the 96.1 million two years ago.

All cattle and calves in Canada as of January 1, 2005, totaled 15.1 million head, up 3 percent from the 14.7 million on January 1, 2004, and 12 percent above the 13.5 million two years ago. All cows and heifers that have calved, at 6.4 million, was up 5 percent from the

6.1 million on January 1, 2004, and 10 percent above the 5.8 million from two years ago.

## **U.S. Cattle on Feed**

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.3 million head on February 1, 2005. The inventory was 2 percent above February 1, 2004 and 6 percent above February 1, 2003.

Placements in feedlots during January totaled 1.89 million, 7 percent above 2004 but 10 percent below 2003. Net placements were 1.81 million. During January, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 380,000, 600-699 pounds were 458,000, 700-799 pounds were 628,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 419,000. Marketings of fed cattle during January totaled 1.78 million, up slightly from 2004 but down 10 percent from 2003. Other disappearance totaled 74,000 during January, 21 percent below 2004 and 1 percent below 2003.

## **January 2005 Red Meat Production**

Montana slaughter plants produced 1.2 million pounds, dressed weight, of red meat during January 2005, down 13 percent from last month, but up 8 percent from January 2004. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,400 head, up 17 percent from a year ago. The average live weight of 1,147 pounds dropped by 13 pounds from last year.

During January there were 1,200 hogs slaughtered, unchanged from a year ago. The average live weight at 240 pounds rose 2 pounds from last year. January sheep slaughter in the state totaled 200 head, down 100 head from January 2004. The average live weight was unchanged from last year.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.65 billion pounds in January, down 2 percent from the 3.71 billion pounds produced in January 2004.

Beef production, at 1.92 billion

pounds, was slightly below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.53 million head, down 2 percent from January 2004. The average live weight was up 13 pounds from the previous year, at 1,262 pounds.

Veal production totaled 13.3 million pounds, 17 percent below January a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 67,700 head, down 14 percent from January 2004. The average live weight was 7 pounds below last year, at 329 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.70 billion pounds, down 3 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.48 million head, 4 percent below January 2004. The average live weight was 1 pound above the previous year, at 270 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 14.4 million pounds, was down 7 percent from January 2004. Sheep slaughter totaled 208,500 head, 5 percent below last year. The average live weight was 138 pounds, down 3 pounds from January a year ago.

## **December Milk Production Up 1.0 Percent**

Milk production in the 20 major States during December totaled 12.4 billion pounds, up 1.0 percent from December 2003. November revised production, at 11.9 billion pounds, was up 1.2 percent from November 2003. The November revision represented an increase of 5 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,602 pounds for December, 6 pounds above December 2003. The number of milk cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.76 million head, 47,000 head more than December 2003, but 4,000 head less than November 2004.

Milk production in the U.S. during the October-December quarter totaled 41.9 billion pounds, up 0.9 percent from the October-December quarter last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the quarter was 9.02 million head, 7,000 head more than the same period last year.

## Montana Potato Stocks Up 10 Percent, U.S. Up 2 Percent

Montana potato producers held 3.3 million cwt. of potatoes in storage on February 1, 2005, up 10 percent from the previous year. Ninety two percent of the 2004 Montana potato crop is still in storage.

The 15 major potato States held 204 million cwt of potatoes in storage February 1, 2005, up 2 percent from last year and 3 percent above 2003. Potatoes in storage account for 51 percent of the 2004 fall storage States' production, 1 percentage point above last year. Stocks by type were 2 percent red, 11 percent round white, 2 percent long white (Shepody), and 85 percent russets, with a smaller percentage of reds and round whites but a larger percentage of russets than a year ago.

Disappearance of 199 million cwt from the start of harvest to February 1, is down 2 percent from last year and 4 percent below two years ago. Shrink and loss, at 22.5 million cwt, is up 10 percent from both last year and the same date in 2003.

Processors used 101 million cwt of 2004 crop potatoes so far this season, down 1 percent from a year ago and 6 percent below two years ago. Idaho and Malheur County, Oregon, processing increased 2 percent from a year ago, while Washington and the rest of Oregon processing is virtually unchanged from last season.

December usage, at 15.0 million cwt, is 5 percent above last year and up 1 percent from two years ago. Dehydrating usage accounts for 20.0 million cwt of the total processing, down 9 percent from last year and 16 percent below the same date in 2003.

Western States held 141 million cwt of potatoes in storage on February 1, up 4 percent from last year but 2 percent below two years ago. California's potato stocks are up 19 percent from last year, while Idaho's and Montana's storages both hold 12 percent more. Potato sheds in Colorado stored 2 percent more than last year. Oregon's potato stocks are down 13 percent and Washington's sheds stored 4 percent less than last year.

## Hired Workers Down 12 Percent, Wage Rates Up 4 Percent From a Year Ago

There were 749,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of January 9-15, 2005, down 12 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 574,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 175,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$9.81 per hour during the January 2005 reference week, up 40

cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$8.73 per hour, up 34 cents from last January, while livestock workers earned \$9.19 per hour compared with \$8.83 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$8.91 per hour, was up 36 cents from last year.

The number of hours worked averaged 36.8 hours for hired workers during the survey week, down 3 percent from a year ago.

The largest decreases in the number of hired farm workers from last year occurred in California, Florida, and in the Southern Plains (Oklahoma and Texas), Lake (Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin), and Appalachian II (Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia) regions.

The largest increases in the number of hired farm workers from a year ago were in the Corn Belt I (Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio), Northern Plains (Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota), Mountain III (Arizona and New Mexico), and Northeast I (New England and New York) regions

Hired farm worker wage rates were generally above a year ago in most regions. The largest increases occurred in the Southern Plains, Mountain I (Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming), Florida, and Pacific (Oregon and Washington) regions.

## Wage Rates for Hired Workers, by Region & U.S., January 11-17, 2004 & January 9-15, 2005 1/

U.S. and Region 2/	TYPE OF WORKER						Wage Rates for All Hired Workers	
	Field		Livestock		Field & Livestock			
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
Dollars per Hour								
Northeast I	9.72	9.47	8.56	9.17	9.10	9.32	10.10	10.37
Northeast II	8.79	8.47	7.73	8.76	8.38	8.62	9.26	9.66
Appalachian I	8.36	8.65	8.76	9.03	8.53	8.82	9.16	9.64
Appalachian II	8.76	8.46	8.59	8.04	8.66	8.25	9.16	9.02
Southeast	7.67	7.96	7.61	7.25	7.65	7.71	8.10	8.41
FL	7.70	8.50	8.60	8.60	7.77	8.51	8.85	9.52
Lake	10.11	9.65	9.41	9.67	9.60	9.66	10.68	10.61
Cornbelt I	9.98	9.40	10.01	8.95	10.00	9.18	10.70	10.06
Cornbelt II	9.12	9.16	9.79	10.28	9.50	10.07	10.15	10.63
Delta	8.57	9.52	8.71	7.63	8.63	8.97	9.03	9.29
Northern Plains	9.89	10.26	8.78	8.60	9.11	9.20	9.78	9.82
Southern Plains	7.46	8.01	7.97	9.35	7.73	8.75	8.43	9.56
Mountain I	8.29	9.42	8.72	8.82	8.64	8.95	8.92	9.76
Mountain II	8.75	7.37	8.81	9.65	8.80	8.83	9.80	9.93
Mountain III	7.44	7.70	7.98	8.41	7.69	8.02	8.37	8.61
Pacific	8.58	9.32	9.31	9.90	8.78	9.39	9.82	10.33
CA	8.41	8.60	9.25	10.30	8.54	8.88	9.47	9.94
HI 3/	9.26	9.94			9.39	9.98	11.11	11.52
US 4/	8.39	8.73	8.83	9.19	8.55	8.91	9.41	9.81

1/ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers. 2/ Regions consist of the following Northeast I: CT, ME, MA, NH, NY, RI, VT. Northeast II: DE, MD, NJ, PA. Appalachian I: NC, VA. Appalachian II: KY, TN, WV. Southeast: AL, GA, SC. Lake MI, MN, WI. Cornbelt I: IL, IN, OH. Cornbelt II: IA, MO. Delta: AR, LA, MS. Northern Plains: KS, NE, ND, SD. Southern Plains: OK, TX. Mountain I: ID, MT, WY. Mountain II: CO, NV, UT. Mountain III: AZ, NM. Pacific: OR, WA. 3/ Insufficient data for livestock. 4/ Excludes AK.

## January Egg Production Up 3 Percent

U.S. egg production totaled 7.61 billion during January 2005, up 3 percent from last year. Production included 6.52 billion table eggs, and 1.09 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.03 billion were broiler-type and 64 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during January 2005 averaged 348 million, up 3 percent from a year earlier. January egg production per 100 layers was 2,188 eggs, up slightly from January 2004.

All layers in the U.S. on February 1, 2005, totaled 348 million, up 3 percent from a year ago. The 348 million layers consisted of 289 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 56.6 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.68 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on February 1, 2005, averaged 69.8 eggs per 100 layers, up slightly from a year ago.

Egg-type chicks hatched during January totaled 36.8 million, up 4 percent from January 2004. Eggs in incubators totaled 33.3 million on February 1, 2005,

up 9 percent from a year ago. Domestic placements of egg-type pullet chicks for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 157,000 during January 2005, down 4 percent from January 2004.

The January 2005 hatch of broiler-type chicks, at 796 million, was up 3 percent from January of the previous year. There were 654 million eggs in incubators on February 1, 2005, up 3 percent from a year earlier. Leading breeders placed 6.29 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during January 2005, down 8 percent from January 2004.

### COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

All Wheat County Estimates	Wheat & Barley Movement
Chicken Inventory & Annual	
Egg Production	
Honey Production	
Ag Prices Received	

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